

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8197

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SUBJECT: CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL AND REGIONAL GOVERNORS
APPOINTED

REF: OUAGA 1082

1. SUMMARY. IN FURTHERANCE PROMISED GOVERNMENT CHANGES, PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAS JUST APPOINTED "NATIONAL RENEWAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL," AND ITS INAUGURAL SESSION WAS HELD JUL 5. CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL IS POWERLESS AND IS EXPECTED BE FAIRLY TAME. PRESIDENT ALSO SIGNED DECREES REORGANIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND APPOINTING MILITARY PREFECTS FOR THE TEN DEPARTMENTS (REGIONS) INTO WHICH UPPER VOLTA NOW DIVIDED. NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRST TIME GIVES MILITARY OFFICERS A MAJOR ROLE IN LOCAL/REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. EACH DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE ELECTED LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

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2. BY DECREE OF JULY 2, PRESIDENT LAMIZANA

APPOINTED A 65-MEMBER "NATIONAL RENEWAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL" TO REPLACE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DISSOLVED FEBRUARY 8. APPOINTEES WERE SELECTED FROM VARIOUS GROUPS: MILITARY (8); VETERANS (4); RURAL WORLD (10); BUSINESSMEN (6); LABOR UNIONS (8); YOUTH (6); CULTURAL GROUPS (2); WOMEN'S GROUPS (3); TRADITIONAL CHIEFS (4); RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS (3); OTHER PERSONALITIES (11).

3. PERSONS SELECTED ARE "UNKNOWN," EXCEPT FOR SOME OF LABOR LEADERS AND BUSINESSMEN AND HALF-DOZEN OTHERS. THE MOST PROMINENT ARE: MAJOR MICHEL DEME, RANKING GENDARMERIE OFFICER AND AN ADVISOR TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE; CAPT. SIE OUATTARA, DEPUTY COMMANDER, NATIONAL GENDARMERIE; MAURICE TIEBA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SECURITY (UPPER VOLTA'S NO 2 TOP COP); KALIFA KONE, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION UNTIL MARCH 1974, WHEN HE BECAME AN ADVISOR TO MINISTER OF INFORMATION; ZOUMANA TRAORE, SEC-GEN OF USTV LABOR FEDERATION; ALPHONSE KAMBIRE, PRESIDENT OF CNTV LABOR FEDERATION; MACAIRE OUEDRAOGO, DIR-GENSO OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK; AND BUSINESSMAN MARTIAL OUEDRAOGO.

4. LIST IS NOTABLE FOR ABSENCE OF POLITICAL PERSONALITIES (ALTHOUGH SOME MEMBERS PROBABLY WERE IN RANK-AND-FILE OF FORMER POLITICAL PARTIES), SHARPLY REDUCED CHIEFLY REPRESENTATION (ONLY FOUR, COMPARED TO ABOUT 17 IN OLD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY), AND ABSENCE OF PROMINENT REPRESENTATIVES OF MLN-ORIENTED ELITE. WHILE SOME PROGRESSIVES ARE INCLUDED (YOUTH, WOMEN, LABOR, CULTURE), LIST IS ON THE WHOLE UNINSPIRING AND APPEARS PRESAGE FAIRLY TAME CONSULTATIVE BODY.

5. CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE POWERLESS IN ANY EVENT. DECREE ESTABLISHING COUNCIL SAYS ITS MISSION IS TO GIVE OPINION ON ISSUES ON WHICH GOVERNMENT CONSULTS IT AND TO HELP MOBILIZE MASSES TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT'S "NATIONAL RENEWAL" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRAM. SESSIONS ARE TO BEGIN AND END AT TIMES TO BE DETERMINED BY PRESIDENT LAMIZANA AND ITS INTERNAL REGULATIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL.

6. OTHER NEW DECREES FULFILL GOUV PROMISE TO RESHAPE LOCAL GOVERNMENT. COUNTRY HAS BEEN DIVIDED INTO TEN DEPARTMENTS, HEADED BY MILITARY PREFECTS.

PREFECTS AND THEIR CIVILIAN SECRETARIES-GENERAL WERE APPOINTED JULY 2. (BIODATA AND GEOGRAPHIC DELIMITATIONS WILL BE POUCHED.) EACH DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL ELECTED BY DIRECT UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE. SUBJECT TO CERTAIN LIMITATIONS (E.G. ABSOLUTE VETO POWER OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR), DEPARTMENTAL COUNCILS WILL HAVE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS APPROPRIATE TO A LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODY. (COMMENT; WHILE TOTALLY ELIMINATING DEMOCRACY AT NATIONAL LEVEL, GOUV IS THUS EXPERIMENTING WITH INCREASED DEGREE OF DEMOCRACY AT LOCAL LEVEL.)

7. IN ECONOMIC SPHERE, MILITARY PREFECT IS CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (ORD) FOR HIS DEPARTMENT. ORD BOUNDARIES ARE BEING SLIGHTLY ADJUSTED TO CONFORM TO DEPARTMENTAL BOUNDARIES. ONE OF DEPARTMENTS COMPRISES TWO ORD'S (BOBO AND BANFORA).

8. BELOW DEPARTMENT LEVEL, COUNTRY IS DIVIDED INTO SUBPREFECTURES (THE FORMER "CERCLES"), ARRONDISSEMENTS (FORMER SUBDIVISIONS AND "POSTES ADMINISTRATIVES"), AND COMMUNES/VILLAGES. BULLEN

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